



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON SEVEN SEVEN
NAVAL AIR STATION ATLANTA
1000 HALSEY AVE
MARIETTA GEORGIA 30060-5029

OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1
Command Serial Number: 058
Date Submitted: 15 Apr 08

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Command Operations Report

1. Command Data

Name of your Command or Organization: AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON 77

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: 55651

Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: HARTMAN First: STEVEN M.I.: E Rank: CDR

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2007-09-22

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: Counter -Narco-Terrorism and
Homeland Defense / CENTAM, SOUTHAM, CONUS

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): NAS ATLANTA, GA

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: COMUSNAVSOUTH

Administrative: TACTICAL SUPPORT WING

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable): JOINT INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE SOUTH, OPERATION CARIB SHIELD, OPERATION CAPER FOCUS

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): N/A

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable: 6 E-2C, AF600-605

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): N/A

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 50 Enlisted: 41 Civilian: 60 (Northrop-Grumman)

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): LCDR Jeffrey N. Henderson

Job Title/Office Code: Public Affairs Officer

E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): jeffrey.n.henderson@navy.mil

Phone number(s): 678-655-6382

Command Mailing Address: 1000 Halsey Ave, Hangar 5, Marietta, GA 30060

2. Commander's Assessment

Airborne Early Warning Squadron SEVEN SEVEN (VAW-77) was established in October, 1995 as one of two Navy Reserve Hawkeye Squadrons, and since the 2005 decommission of its sister reserve unit, VAW-78, remains the nation's only reserve E-2C squadron. Nicknamed the "Night Wolves", VAW-77 is one of six squadrons assigned to the Navy Reserve's Tactical Support Wing. 2007 marked the first year that VAW-77 fell under the administrative reporting authority of the newly formed Tactical Support Wing. The primary role of the squadron is to support two major missions. The first, is to provide Airborne Command, Control & Coordination (ABC3) of our nation's Counter Narco-Terrorism forces in the global war on illegal drugs and terrorism. The second is to provide Homeland Defense support. VAW-77 proved again in 2007 that it can be highly successful in supporting both of these important missions.

In 2007, the Night Wolves deployed in excess of 180 days to Forward Operating Locations (FOL's) El Salvador and Curacao. Additionally, the squadron supported fleet and reserve training requirements including missile shoots and the Joint Forces Command Bold Quest exercise. Two squadron personnel were also assigned as Individual Augmentees to Operation Enduring Freedom and served in Afghanistan.

VAW-77 continued its string of operational success, with the capture of 3 vessels and seizure of nearly 11k pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of over \$245M, and 55 pounds of Heroin worth \$8.25M. This brings the impressive tally of drugs seized in the AOR to over 114k pounds with an estimated street value in excess of \$5.4B since 2003. These interdictions included the arrest of 70 Narco-terrorists, and seizure of 18 "go-fast" and logistical support vessels and 11 aircraft.

Key contributors to the squadron's success for the year were adequate funding and aircraft availability. The extremely talented Northrop Grumman contract maintenance team consistently provided mission capable aircraft during all detachments, resulting in a sortie completion rate in excess of 99%. One challenge to operations was the shortage of FTS officers in the squadron, especially NFOs. Through Active-Reserve Integration,

this situation was remedied by incorporation of aircrew from across the fleet, including the FRS, WTU, and NSAWC, to augment the complement of FTS and Reserve aircrew.

3. Chronology and Narrative

Chronology:

- a. JAN07 – FEB07 Counter Narco-terrorism detachment, FOL Curacao, N.A.
- b. MAR07 – MAY07 Counter Narco-terrorism detachment, FOL Comalapa, El Salvador
- c. MAY07 TSW Missile Exercise, NAS New Orleans, LA
- d. JUL07 – AUG07 Counter Narco-terrorism detachment, FOL Curacao, N.A.
- e. SEP07 JFCOM Exercise Bold Quest, Coalition Combat ID / Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (CCID / ACTD), Nellis AFB, NV.
- f. OCT07 – NOV07 Counter Narco-terrorism detachment, FOL Curacao, N.A.
- g. DEC07 JIATFS Radar Tracking Exercise, NAS Key West, FL.

Narrative:

In 2007 VAW-77 flew 750 sorties for a total of 2511 mishap free flight hours. In addition to its primary mission of Counter Narco-Terrorism, it also provided support to air wing exercises and fleet aircrew training.

The first counter-narcotic detachment of the year was only the second to FOL Curacao in many years for VAW-77. The squadron enjoyed a high level of success, detecting and tracking numerous air traffickers, almost on a daily basis. The squadron returned to the Eastern Pacific theater, operating from FOL El Salvador for a single detachment, before returning to the Caribbean for its final two. During these detachments there was a marked decrease in air trafficking as soon as the squadron arrived in theater. Throughout this year's detachments VAW-77 proved its flexibility and resourcefulness, working with myriad US agencies and law enforcement or militaries from El Salvador, Colombia, the Netherlands, France, and England.

In addition to the counter-narcotic detachments, the squadron also supported Joint Forces Command, Tactical Support Wing, and JIATF South detachments in CONUS. VAW-77 provided range clearance and command and control for an Air-to-Air Missile Exercise with aircraft from VFA-204 and VFC-12. A detachment was also sent to Nellis AFB to participate in the Coalition Combat ID Advanced Technology Demonstration, Bold Quest. The squadron gained valuable training with the joint services and numerous partner nations in using advanced technology and data links to enhance combat identification and reduce fratricide. In December the squadron sent two aircraft to NAS Key West to work with JIATF South, US Customs, and other Navy assets to perform detection and tracking tests against high speed and low profile vessels, and to develop tactics to counter these threats.

A significant milestone for VAW-77 during 2007 was the transition to a fleet of six E-2C+ aircraft incorporating the Navigation Upgrade, Automated Information System (AIS), Garmin GNS-530, and a new propeller system, the NP2000. During the transition the

squadron received three new aircraft and sent two aircraft to the "boneyard" at Davis-Monthan AFB.

The CNO recognized VAW-77's outstanding service to US Naval Forces Southern Command in 2007 by awarding the Meritorious Unit Commendation. The squadron's complement of awards includes a Joint Meritorious Unit award, two Navy Meritorious Unit Commendations, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Battle "E" awards, six Safety "S" awards, and three Noel Davis trophies.

4. Supporting Reports

- a. Detachment 07-2 End of Action Report
 - b. Detachment 07-3 End of Action Report
 - c. Detachment 07-4 End of Action Report
 - d. Detachment 08-1 End of Action Report
 - e. Bold Quest End of Action Report
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5. Published Documents

- a. Change of Command Program, 22 September 2007
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6. Photographs

- a. AF600 and AF604 over Gulf of Mexico, May 07
- b. AF600 landing at FOL Curacao, N.A.

S. E. Hartman

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